

UPDATE ON SCHOOL SYSTEM REFORM EFFORTS

The Miami-Dade County School Board has expended several billion dollars of public funds, all derived from state and local taxpayers, on its capital construction program during the last ten years. Incredibly, little can be seen for that huge investment in school facilities.

Surfside Mayor Paul Novack, who is a member of the State Board that has been reviewing operations of the Miami-Dade Public School District, has uncovered and exposed the extraordinary, extreme levels of waste and inefficiency that divert public funds away from productive use for the education of the area's children. Mayor Novack, finding and using the school district's own paper trail, has revealed that special interests benefit from the huge funding pipeline while students and educators suffer in overcrowded, dilapidated school buildings throughout the County.

As a result of Mayor Novack's findings, and in response to Mayor Novack's call for a full investigation and audit, the State of Florida has now commissioned an independent forensic audit of the public school district's construction program. The audit is now being initiated and will be conducted by the private accounting and forensic auditing firm of Freeman and Associates. This is the same firm that conducted a forensic audit of the teachers' union president who subsequently pled guilty to an array of federal charges and who was recently sentenced to prison by a federal court in Miami.

For additional details and documents visit:

http://www.town.surfside.fl.us/schools_construction.html

COMMISSION MEETING TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2004 at 8:00 pm

TOWN COMMISSION

PAUL NOVACK.....Mayor
TIMOTHY WILL Vice Mayor
FRANK MACBRIDECommissioner
MELBA MANEROCommissioner
ALAN RUBINCommissioner
Town E-Mailsurfclerk@the-beach.net

TOWN OFFICIALS

EDUARDO RODRIGUEZ.....Town Manager
NANCY FERNANDEZ.....Asst. Town Mgr./Town Clerk
STEPHEN H. CYPENTown Attorney
LAWRENCE BOEMLER.....Police Chief

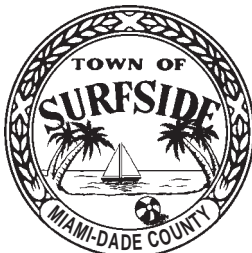
BUSINESS NUMBERS

TOWN HALL(305) 861-4863
COMMUNITY CENTER(305) 866-3635
TENNIS COURTS(305) 866-5176
TOURIST BOARD(305) 864-0722
LIBRARY(305) 865-2409
SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT(305) 861-4862

EMERGENCY ONLY
FIRE/POLICE (305) 861-1115
ALL OTHER: (305) 861-4862

TOWN OF SURFSIDE

Office of the Town Manager
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SURFSIDE, FLORIDA 33154
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FEBRUARY 2004

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Surfside, Florida

February 2004

A MODEL FOR SAVING FLORIDA'S COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Town of Surfside Charter Amendment Referendum: March 16, 2004

The Surfside Town Commission has recognized that public participation in planning and zoning processes is a vital component of preserving and enhancing our home town for the benefit of present and future generations. Town officials have hosted many public hearings and workshops on issues of comprehensive planning, zoning, and municipal codes. Extraordinary steps have persistently been taken to involve the public and its input into all of the Town's functions.

To further these goals, the Town Commission has authorized a referendum on a Charter Amendment to be included on the ballot for the regular election to be

held on March 16, 2004. The Charter Amendment, if approved, would ensure that development density, building heights, and zoning limitations cannot be increased in Surfside unless its citizens approve any such increase through a referendum at a regular election. Any future proposed increase in zoning limitations would have to comply with all legal requirements, gain the approval of the Town Commission, and would then have to be approved by the people of Surfside at a regularly scheduled election.

Surfside's Town officials recognize that any consideration at any time in the future that may allow for an increase in the density or height of buildings could result in a fundamental and substantial change for the future of the Town. Surfside's leadership

also recognizes, advocates and supports the value of public participation in such crucial activities and decisions.

The future of Surfside, like other communities throughout Florida, depends upon its land use and planning decisions. For these reasons, the Town Commission has worked together and has supported the upcoming Charter Amendment that will give the citizens of the Town of Surfside the choice of whether they wish to reserve to themselves the final authority to make any fundamental decisions regarding the Town's zoning limitations. A "Yes" vote on the upcoming referendum will achieve that objective.

For more information visit
www.town.surfside.fl.us/policies.html

NEW BUSES NOW SERVING SURFSIDE

The Town Commission's efforts to improve public transportation in our community have produced significant new results. has also replaced the large Metro buses along the "R" Route with new, smaller mini-buses that continue to provide area transportation but without the noise, hazards, and pollution commonly associated with the larger buses that formerly served the route.

The new Surfside Circulator Vehicle has arrived and is in service taking our residents throughout its route, including residential, business, and all areas of the community. The circulator is brand new, air conditioned, handicapped accessible, and very comfortable.



At the urging of the Town Commission, the County

These two advances combine to substantially improve public transportation - and public safety - in our community and everyone at Town Hall hopes that our residents and visitors benefit from these changes for many years to come.

ELECTION NOTICE

The Town's Commission election is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2004. All absentee ballot requests for the March 16, 2004 election must be processed through and obtained from the Miami-Dade Elections Department. Please direct your questions to the Division of Absentee Ballots at (305)499-8444. Only the detailed written instructions, in



English and Spanish, concerning the absentee ballot request process, as well as the absentee ballot request form, are available at Town Hall. Absentee ballots will be issued to and collected from the absentee voter or their designee by the Miami-Dade Elections Department.

SURFSIDE COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

1. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

The Town Manager reported that the new circulator vehicle has been delivered to the Town and is in the process of being prepared to be put into service. He reported that the circulator is a brand new, air-conditioned, handicapped accessible, state of the art vehicle. The circulator will operate six days per week, Monday through Saturday.

The Town Manager reported on the status of the dune restoration project on the beach. He reported that multiple agencies have coordinated this project for the last year and a half and that it is finally coming to fruition. Basically, the State is promoting the removal of invasive plants that are taking over the beaches, specifically a plant called scaevola that has taken over all of the dunes and is being removed from Key West to Palm Beach. The Town Commission passed a motion to continue to authorize and to fund the beach dune restoration project.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The Town Manager presented the Town’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003. The Town Commission passed a motion to accept the annual financial report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2003.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The Town Manager presented the request received from Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor Elementary School for support of their Adopt-A-Class program. The Town Commission passed a motion to continue the Town’s support of the program.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The Town Manager requested that the Town Commission consider a contract with Guy Martin to keep him in the same capacity but reducing his hours and eliminating any benefits. The Town Manager reported that this will be a savings to the Town, a continuity of the functions and the retention of a capable individual. The Town Commission passed a motion authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a contract for consulting services with Guy Martin.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The Town Manager reported on the generosity of an anonymous donation to a sanctuary located in central Florida for the relocation of the cat colony from the beach and requested the Town Commission’s authorization to enter into a contract with the facility for this relocation. The Town Commission passed a motion accordingly.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

The Town Manager introduced the Town Planner, who made a presentation regarding the Charter amendment being proposed to the Town electors.

2. The Town Commission passed an ordinance, on first reading, amending the Future Land Use Element, Transportation Element and Capital Improvements Element of the Town of Surfside Comprehensive Plan, adding Policy 1.5 to provide for adequate parking to serve the Harding Avenue Business District and planned Civic Center; adding Policy 4.3 to reduce municipal fleet parking impacts on the Harding Avenue Business District; adding a new Objective 11 to plan and implement a Civic Center Complex; adding a new Policy 11.1 to consolidate municipal services into a centrally located complex; adding Policy 11.2 to expand existing library facilities; adding Policy 11.3 to relocate non-water related municipal activities in the oceanfront recreation center to a new Civic Center; adding Policy 11.4 to acquire lands to support parking and Civic Center expansion needs; adding Policy 6.2 to inventory parking spaces and identify public and private parking needs; adding Policy 6.3 to develop a plan for providing needed parking spaces; and modifying Capital Improvement Element Policy 1.6 to include parking improvements and improvements to the Civic Center and related facilities.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

3. The Town Commission passed an ordinance, on second reading, amending Section 90-145 (b) (1) c. of the Code of the Town of Surfside to eliminate servants’ quarters in accessory or subordinate buildings and to permit cabanas in accessory or subordinate buildings in conjunction with an outdoor "swimming pool".

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

4. The Town Commission passed an ordinance, on second reading, amending Chapter 90 of the Code of the Town of Surfside, by adding a new Section 90-74.1, to provide discontinuance of nonconforming structures.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

5. The Town Commission passed a resolution authorizing and directing Town Manager and Town Clerk to execute Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement with the Department of Community Affairs, State of Florida.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

6. The Town Commission passed a resolution approving the transfer of the Interlink Communications Partners, LLC. d/b/a Charter Communications cable franchise to Atlantic Broadband (Miami) LLC.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

RECREATION NEWS

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

The following classes are now in progress at the Community Center: ESOL (English), Yoga, Conversational Spanish, Water Aerobics, Oil Painting/Drawing, and Current Events/Adult Life Stages. **A schedule of ongoing classes is available at the Community Center or call (305)866-3635.**

INCOME TAX PREPARATION

Free Income Tax Preparation, sponsored by AARP, will be held on Fridays, beginning February 6th through April 9th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. *Call the Community Center to schedule an appointment at (305)866-3635.*

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

A Defensive Driving class will be held on Tuesdays, February 17th and February 24th, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. *Fee: \$10.00 Sponsored by AARP. Call (305)466-5725 to register.*

MONTHLY CONCERTS, DANCES LAUNCHED IN SURFSIDE

The Surfside Tourist Board will launch a series of "JUBILEE CONCERTS" to be presented monthly in the Surfside Community Center from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. The Concerts arranged by the Board include:

- *FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH: Valentine’s Day – The Three Tenors*
- *WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH: St. Patrick’s Day – Cloggers & Alden McRay*
- *THURSDAY, APRIL 8TH: Jewish Celebration – Headlining Danny Tadmore*
- *SUNDAY, MAY 9TH: Mother’s Day – Best of Broadway, Marc & Rio*
- *SUNDAY, JUNE 20TH: Father’s Day – Roman Festival Featuring Alberto*
- *SUNDAY, JULY 4TH: Independence Day*
- *THURSDAY, AUGUST 13TH: South American Fiesta*
- *MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH: Labor Day – Spirit of Aloha*
- *MONDAY, OCTOBER 11TH: Comedy Night – Featuring Marty Burals and Jerry Leader*
- *FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH: Surfside Stars*
- *FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST: New Year’s Eve Celebration*

As an extra added attraction, the "Poppy Orchestra" will provide music for dancing. Admission is free for all Surfside residents and tourists. Light refreshments will be served.

